MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) and (b) The names of the States not having any standard size nitrogenous/phosphatic fertilizer manufacturing plant are Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura and Sikkim. Several factors such as demand for fertilizers, availability of feedstock, transportation costs etc. determine the location of a standard size fertilizer manufacturing plant. The demand from these States is negligible as compared to the economic size of the fertilizer plants. It is nevertheless, ensured that enough fertilizers are made available in these States at a statutorily controlled price which is uniform throughout the country.

Projects taken up under NREP in Tamil Nadu

1727. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the projects taken up so far under the National Rural Employment Programme during the year 1986-87 and 1987-88 in different States, particularly in the State of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) the projects proposed to be taken up under the said programme which are still pending for approval of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) and (b) Work projects under National Rural Employment Programme (NREP) are required to be approved at the district level by the District Rural Development Agencies (DRDAs) as per the guidelines issued by the Government of India. They are not sent to the Union Government for approval. As such, there are no pending projects for approval with the Union Government. For the same reason, the details of the work projects under the programme are also not maintained at the Central level.

Central Assistance for banana and potato cultivation

1728. SHRI K.V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any Central assistance has been given so far to the State Government to promote banana and potato cultivation; and

(b) if so, the Statewise details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF FERTILIZERS IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI R. PRABHU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 1.316 lakhs has been given to the Government of Goa during the first three years of the VIIth Plan for promotion of banana cultivation.

Besides, an amount of Rs. 6 lakhs has been provided by the National Horticulture Board for creation of storage facilities through cooperative organisations for potato in different northern States.

Drinking water problem in villages of Tamil Nadu

1729. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is drinking water problem in many villages of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, whether any scheme on the long term basis has been formulated and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether any time frame for implementation of the above scheme has been made and if so, the details thereof; and if not, whether Government propose to have such time frame for implementation of such schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY): (a) As on 1-10-1988, there were